1999

Fall

NCNA *Journal*

NCNA Journal

Convention Review

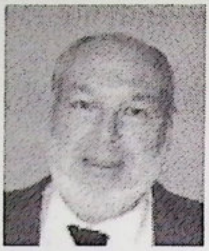
Member Publishes Book

Color Coded Money

Fall 1999

North Carolina Numismatic Association

North Carolina Numismatic Association



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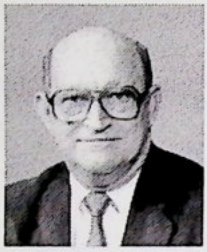

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Greg Cheek
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Will Jordan
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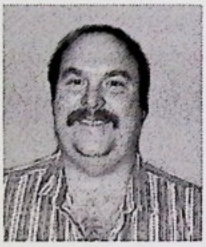
Term
Through
2002



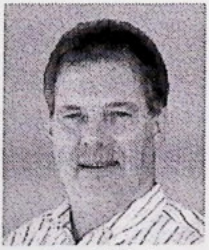
David Boitnott

Barry Ciociola

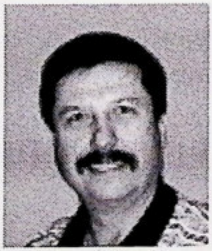
David Provost

Term
Through
2001

Charles Katzenstein



Jerry Sajbel



Vince Wheeler

Term
Through
2000

Bill Brewer

Ted Hendrick

John Page

NCNA Journal

North Carolina Numismatic Association

Volume 25 Number 4

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Authors: The *Journal* welcomes short, original articles, reviews, club news, opinions, letters or similar items of numismatic interest. Please submit to the editor. All correspondence will be answered. Issue deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 5, November 15.

The NCNA *Journal* is the official publication of the North Carolina Numismatic Association, an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of numismatics. It is published four times each year at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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From the President

Dear Members,

Another NCNA convention has come and gone. A lot of people put in a great deal of work to make it a success. Cy Dellinger capably handled the bourse; Paul Greene and Vince Wheeler arranged publicity; Barry Ciociola, Ronnie Greene and Will Jordan helped with the set up; Bob Schreiner oversaw the exhibits; Russ and Joan Southworth and Forrest and Tessie Michael manned the registration table; and Greg Cheek set up an impressive display for junior numismatists. And supervising it all was Ted Hendrick with Dot making sure nothing was missed. Many thanks to all these and the many others that I have failed to mention.

We especially enjoyed the visit of Gehring Pittman and Polly Pittman and Tom Roberts who shared many stories of John Jay Pittman. A good time was had by all.

We are already planning for next year. The North Carolina Numismatic Association coin show and convention will be held in a new location and at a new time. Mark your calendars now for October 14-16, 2000. The new location will be the Hickory Metro Trade and Convention Center in Hickory, North Carolina. This is a brand new building with excellent facilities that will be easy to get to, just off I-40.

Several long-time members of the NCNA board retired after the 1999 convention in Greensboro. Forrest Michael, Clark White, John Wills, and Paul Greene are stepping down. Give them all a thank you for service to the organization.

I would like to welcome the new members to the board: David Boitnott, David Provost, and Bill Brewer.

Thank you.

Halbert Carmichael
President

NCNA Elects New Officers for 2000

Two newcomers were elected to the Board of Directors and another replaces Paul Greene, who resigned shortly after the September convention.

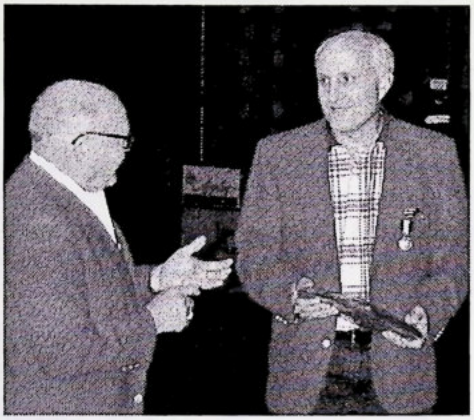
David Boitnott and David Provost, both from the Raleigh area, are the newly elected members. Director John Page was elected to a one-year term to replace Greg Cheek, who moved to Second Vice President. The other new Director is Bill Brewer from Statesville, appointed by the President with consent from the Board to fill the one year remaining in Greene's term. Barry Ciociola was re-elected to another three-year term.

2000 Officers. L to R: Barry Ciociola, David Provost, John Page, David Boitnott, Bob Schreiner, Greg Cheek, Halbert Carmichael, Dick Newsome, Ted Hendrick Not present are Dick Brewer, Charles Katzenstein, Vince Wheeler

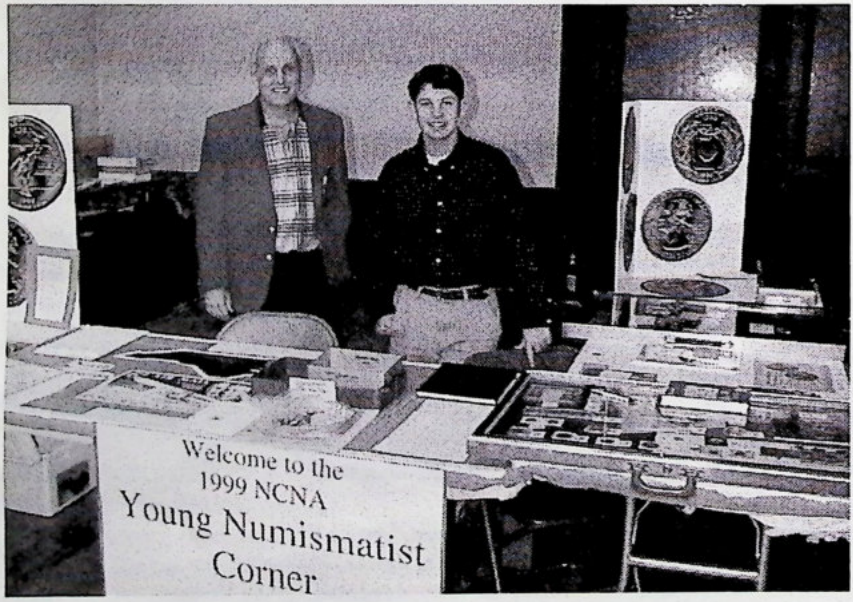
Greg Cheek Named NOTY

NCNA Second Vice President Greg Cheek was presented with the 1999 John J. Pittman Numismatist of the Year award, primarily for his work with young numismatists. The award was made at the convention on September 25.

Cheek has spearheaded the popular Young Numismatists Corner at the last several conventions. The position of Second Vice President will focus on YN activities.



Forrest Michael (L) presenting the award to Greg Cheek



Greg Cheek and YN Brad Ciociola at the YN Corner

Bason Literary Award

The Bason Literary Award for 1999 was presented to Alex Armstrong for his article "Oblique Angle Coin Photography," published in the Spring 1999 *Journal*. The award committee (James Jackson, Dick Newsome, and Vince Wheeler) wrote "That article -- one of many very good articles during the past year -- was interesting, readable, authoritative and covered a facet of the hobby that one doesn't see written about a great deal."

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NCNA on the Web!

Thanks to NCNA member and new Director David Boitnott, NCNA now has a presence on the Internet. The page is hosted, at no cost to NCNA, courtesy of the American Numismatic Association.

The address is:

http://www.money.org/clubs/ncna/ncna-main.html

Do you have a numismatic web site? We'll add a link to our page. Author Boitnott would appreciate any comments you have. You may send him e-mail at dboitnott@mindspring.com or send letters to David care of the NCNA address.

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NCNA Convention Moves to New Location for 2000

Convention is October 13-15, 2000

NCNA has chosen a new site for our next convention, the new Hickory Metro Convention Center in Hickory, NC. The new site offers more space, a clean, modern facility, better food service, and many nearby motels. It's also easy to get to, just off the I-40 interstate.

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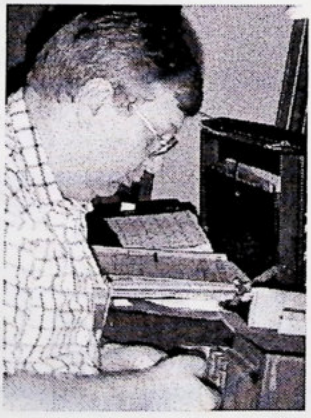
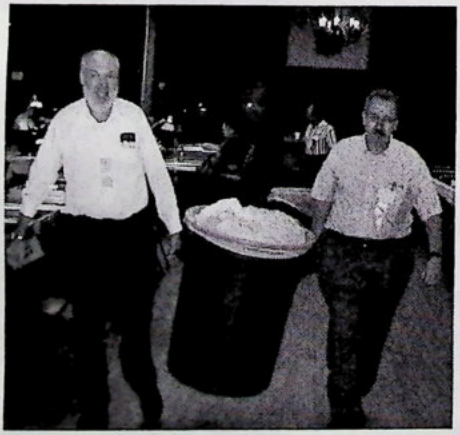
Convention Highlights

A regular feature at the convention is a pizza supper for members, exhibitors, and dealers at the close of business on Saturday.



Past President Will Jordan, a dealer at the convention, checks his stock. 39 dealers occupied 50 tables

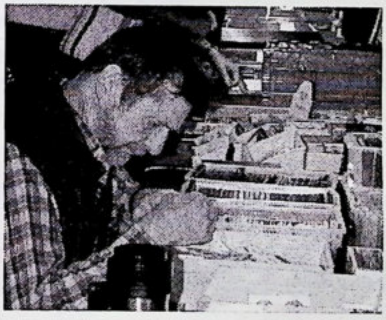


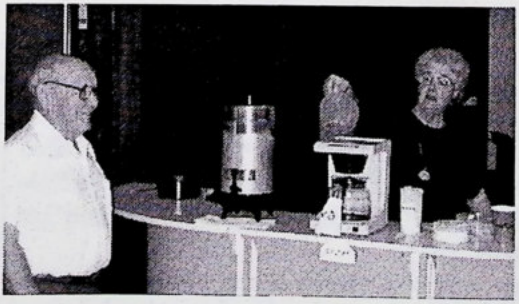
President Halbert Carmichael and Secretary-Treasurer Bob Schreiner apply one of the many skills they have mastered after years of participating in NCNA conventions.

Gehring Pittman was a special guest at the convention. Long active in numismatics at many levels, she is especially remembered by this editor for the song events she led at the American Numismatic Association summer convention. Gehring is the widow of legendary numismatist John J. Pittman, originally from Rocky Mount.

Ted Hendrick joins Gehring Pittman, her daughter Polly Pittman and her husband Tom Roberts at the Saturday evening pizza supper.

NCNA Director John Page seeks additions to his collection. Page is founder of the Carteret Numismatic Society, one of the newest NCNA member clubs.



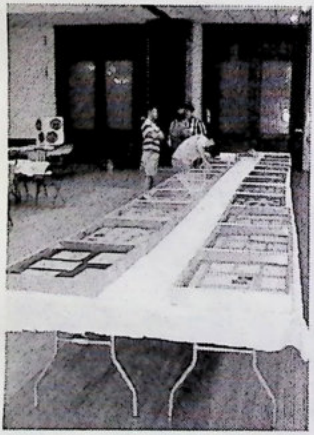


Two ever-faithful workers at the convention are Forrest Michael and Dot Hendrick. An NCNA convention would not be complete without their ever- friendly and always helpful presence.

Exhibits Highlight Convention

Exhibits were abundant again at the 1999 convention. Taking first place was Halbert Carmichael for "English Mints." Second place went to David Provost for "National Commemorative Medals" and third to David Boitnott for "The Quarter Eagles of Bela Lyon Pratt."

Exhibitors Vince Chicarelli, David Provost, Halbert Carmichael, and David Boitnott. Several other exhibitors were not present for the photograph.



Many cases of exhibits added quality and interest to the 1999 convention. The YN corner can be seen at the left rear.

Why is this issue of the *Journal* so late?

Your editor has little excuse. He got busy with other aspects of his life and he procrastinated a bit as well. One of his New Year's resolutions (and the only one he will go public with) is to get all future issues of the *Journal* out on time.

German Notgeld - Money of Need

Paul J. Landsberg

Notgeld is a fascinating currency/coinage that is inexpensive and relatively easy to find. If translated directly from German to English, notgeld means "need money." More recognizably we call it emergency money.

The history behind World War I, the reparations, etc. is far too immense and convoluted to condense into a simple article but one concise statement that can be made is that the German government completely failed in its obligation to provide a secure financial environment for the people. World War I started the country down the path often called "Gresham's Law" (bad money chases out the good money) which soon resulted in a situation where people did not have any small change. Further bad decision making (or some would claim circumstances) led to hyperinflation within four short years.

Before touching on hyperinflation, imagine right now what would happen if the smallest denomination bill everyone had available was a five dollar bill. Commerce cannot stop yet nobody is willing to spend the five dollars without getting change. The "velocity of money" begins to plummet rapidly. However, as the saying goes, "necessity is the mother of invention" and so local government reacted to the lack of small change by issuing their own coinage.

The coins produced on the cheapest of metal (zinc, iron, aluminum) are kriegsgeld if made during the war, or generically called notgeld.

After the war, the German government deliberately pursued a path of devaluing their currency and this resulted in horribly unforeseen consequences: hyperinflation. Quite literally, once the government cranked up the printing presses to issue value-less currency, they couldn't stop. Roughly speaking, the hyperinflationary period started in 1922 and ended sometime in 1924. Stories of workers being paid hourly and immediately rushing off to buy goods were not

(Continued on page 12)

uncommon. The picture of a German using a wheelbarrow to carry currency is a common image.

Now spend a second and consider what a hyperinflation does to the entire population of a country. Any paper wealth, stocks, bonds, currency, bank accounts, etc. all become effectively worthless. Hard goods, i.e. land, cars, houses, retain their value but only the foolish will part with their hard goods because they cannot replace them at a reasonable cost. Fixed income people are absolutely driven to complete poverty.

From a numismatic or collector perspective, the German currency produced due to emergency demands created an enormous amount of colorful, interesting, artistic and historic banknotes and coins. Governments, hard pressed to raise any revenue, resorted to issuing local currency that never circulated. As bad as our stamp collector brethren, municipalities counted on collectors to eagerly pursue each new set of notgeld produced. Some municipalities even went so far as to manufacture currency printed on aluminum foil, shoe heel leather, soft leather (jute), coal, porcelain (coins), linen and silk. Indeed this currency was officially issued by a legitimate entity but did anyone truly expect porcelain coins to circulate? Did anyone expect silk currency to circulate? I think not!

In terms of odd material coinage, Meissen, an old porcelain manufacturing company that still produces porcelain today, issued extensive numbers of coins and medals. Over the decades they issued coins sufficient in number such that there is a 5 volume reference series for earlier work that is followed up by another 5 volume reference set!!

In terms of odd material currency, Bielefeld produced currency in linen, velvet, and silk. Believe it or not, there is a reference book devoted to odd material currency of Bielefeld titled: *Das Bielefelder Stoffgeld 1917-1923*. The book lists 61 different major varieties with lots of other minor variations cataloged.

Paul J. Landsberg is secretary of the Raleigh Coin Club. This article first appeared in the RCC *Newsletter*, and is used with permission.

Request for Information

Your help is needed researching North Carolina scrip and its issuers from colonial times through the great depression. If you have any information or access to any NC scrip notes, please contact me.

Material gathered may eventually be published, with proper credit given. All replies will answered and kept confidential. I currently need information and clear photocopies of every individual SURRY COUNTY scrip note and bond that I can locate.

Your assistance is appreciated!

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Coin Show Calendar

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January 2000

15-16 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Raleigh, Holshouser Building, State Fairgrounds. 919-828-9450, Ted Hendrick.

28-30 37th Annual Coin Show. Coliseum-Monument Rm, I-16 at Coliseum Dr, exit 4, Macon, GA. 800-929-0014, Danny Robinson.

29-30 Northern VA Coin Club Show. Community Center, 120 Cherry St, Vienna, VA. 703-532-6640, Daniel C. Coker.

February 2000

4-5 Ft. Loudoun & Smokey Mountain Coin Club Show. Budget Inn (formerly Ramada), Cedar Bluff Rd, I-40 exit 378, Knoxville, TN. 423-584-3868, Don Rhodes.

5-6 Low Country Coin Club Show. Best Western Northwoods Atriam Inn, I-26 at Ashley Phosphate Rd exit, Charleston, SC. 843-747-8051, W.E. Martens, Jr.

11-13 Charlotte Coin Club 30th Annual Show. Merchandise Mart, 800 Briar Creek Rd, (junction of E. Independence Blvd). 803-547-1994, Jerry Sajbel.

25-26 Greenville Coin Club Annual Coin and Collector's Show, Crowne Plaza (Formerly Holiday Inn) , Roper Mountain Road at I-385, Greenville, SC. Bourse Chairman Sam Norris (W) 864-855-2150 (H) 864-269-0375 or email scna@scna.org.

25-27 Memphis Coin Club. Creative Arts Building, Memphis (TN) Fairgrounds. 901 321-3408, Ray Brown, e-mail rwbrown@cbu.edu.

March 2000

10-12 Tennessee State Numismatic Society. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75 exit 1, Chattanooga, TN. 910-766-5963, Terry Hess, e-mail tlhess01@yahoo.com.

24-26 Suburban Washington Baltimore Coin Show. Baltimore Convention Center, One West Pratt St. 301-424-1876, Gorden Berg.

May 2000

13-14 Carteret Numismatic Society Stamp & Collectible Show. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell St, Morehead City. 910-326-3233, David Porter.

June 2000

24-25 Raleigh Coin Club Show. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds.

919-832-4128, Halbert Carmichael.

July 2000

28-30 Parker Coin Club Annual Coin and Collector's Show Crowne Plaza (formerly Holiday Inn), Roper Mountain Road at I-385, Greenville, SC. Bourse Chairman Sam Norris (W) 864-855-2150 (H) 864-269-0375 or email scna@scna.org.

August 2000

25-27 Blue Ridge Numismatic Association 41st Annual Convention. Dalton, Georgia. (336) 699-3551, Judith Murphy.

October 2000

13-15 North Carolina Numismatic Association Convention. Hickory Metro Trade Center, 1960 13th Ave Dr, SE, Hickory. CY Dellinger, bourse chair, PO Box 25156, Charlotte, NC 28229, 704-568-3897.

November 2000

3-5 South Carolina Numismatic Association Annual Convention, Crowne Plaza (formerly Holiday Inn), Roper Mountain Road at I-385, Greenville, SC. Bourse Chairman Sam Norris (W) 864-855-2150 (H) 864-269-0375 or email scna@scna.org.

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Our Color Coded Paper Money

Harry Corrigan

Anyone familiar with foreign currency knows that it is frequently color-coded. For example, in Canada five dollar notes have a blue back, tens are purple, twenties are green. In the United States, of course, all notes have green backs - but that wasn't always the case. Until 1886 our currency had color-coded backs -- it's just that it wasn't by denomination. It was coded by the legal obligation expressed on the note. Even though color-coding was mostly dropped after 1886, a vestige of it returned in the colors of the Treasury seals of small size notes.

But why was the type of legal obligation so important as to require color-coding? Those of us old enough to remember when Silver Certificates and United States Notes circulated know that no merchant cared whether your money had a blue, red or green seal. But in the era when federal money was first issued, that is, during the Civil War, it could matter a lot.

The first issue of federal money, the Demand Note of 1861, is only a footnote in our monetary history. They were a very small issue only in circulation a few months before being retired and replaced with legal tender notes (or as they were later called, United States Notes). But they did establish a color and nickname for legal tender notes — "Greenbacks."

The problem with legal tender notes is that that was all they were good for - a tender to pay a debt. You couldn't trade them at face value for gold or silver coin. Actually, during the Civil War you would on average have had to give about a dollar and a half of greenbacks to get a gold dollar. So when Gold Certificates were first issued in 1863, it probably seemed like a good idea to print the backs in gold ink to make sure you didn't accidentally spend it as a greenback. (The first issue of Gold Certificates had a red seal and a green anti-counterfeiting overprint on the face - just like legal tender notes did, so the only really obvious difference was the color of the ink on the back of the note.)

The next issue of paper money - national currency - also had a distinctive back: a green border around a black vignette. But why was it important to distinguish nationals from legal tenders, since they circulated at equal value? Well, if your creditor demanded legal tenders in payment of a debt, and you only had nationals, you were in default - nationals were not legal tender. Your mortgage could be foreclosed because you had the wrong type of money. In addition, national banks had to keep their reserves in greenbacks or coin, not national bank notes, not even those of another bank. So it was important for banks to separate nationals from greenbacks.

In 1870 national gold banks began issuing notes. Since these were payable in gold, not legal tenders, and gold was still at a premium, it was important to distinguish them from regular nationals. Thus the back border was printed in brownish-gold ink instead of green.

In 1878, silver certificates were first issued. Silver was still going at a small but meaningful premium over legal tenders or regular nationals, so being readily distinguishable was still important. Thus silver certificates were issued with a silver-grey back.

In 1879 came the "resumption of specie payments." That is, the U.S. Treasury would now redeem any legal tender notes presented to it in specie, i.e., gold coin. In effect, all money became interchangeable at par. So unless you needed legal tenders to pay off a debt, it really didn't matter what kind of banknote you carried. Why then the last "color-coding" - the second charter nationals "brownbacks" of 1882? I suspect it had to do with the legal fiction that the first charter banks were being liquidated and replaced with a distinct second charter bank - even though the building, the officers, even the depositors all remained the same. The old first charter nationals had to be retired when they came in, and the brown backs made it easy to identify which banknotes could be reissued.

Anyway, in 1886, when the next issue of silver certificates came out, they had green backs, as did all new issues of currency since, except for gold backs. (I'm not sure why - perhaps because we were now officially on the gold standard, or because so many contracts required payment in gold.)

And why, you may ask, didn't the merchant of the 1950's care whether he got a blue, red or green seal (or a brown or a gold seal, for that matter)? Well, it's because since 1935, all currency, whatever its type, has been legal tender. And gold clauses in contracts were no longer enforceable. Though the government continued to carefully distinguish currency type by seal color, they were now all the same. It made no difference to anyone, except a few Treasury accountants who had to balance the books. And since the write off of the last United States Notes, even they don't care.

Harry Corrigan is vice president of the Raleigh Coin Club. First printed in the RCC *Newsletter*, and used with permission.

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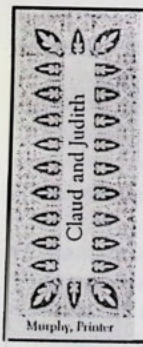

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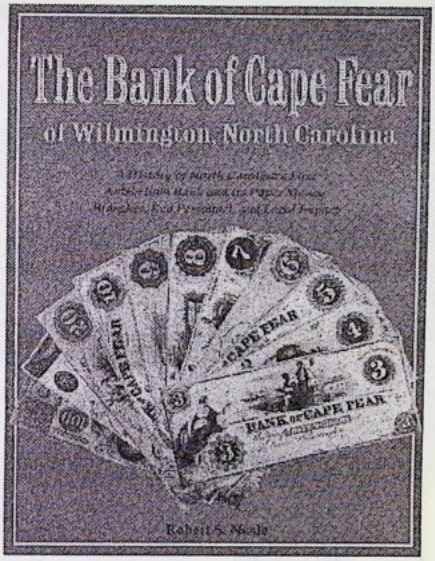
Member Publishes Book

NCNA member Robert S. Neale has just published *The Bank of Cape Fear of Wilmington, North Carolina.* The book's subtitle describes its scope: *A History of North Carolina's First Antebellum Bank and its Paper Money, Branches, Key Personnel, and Local Impact.*



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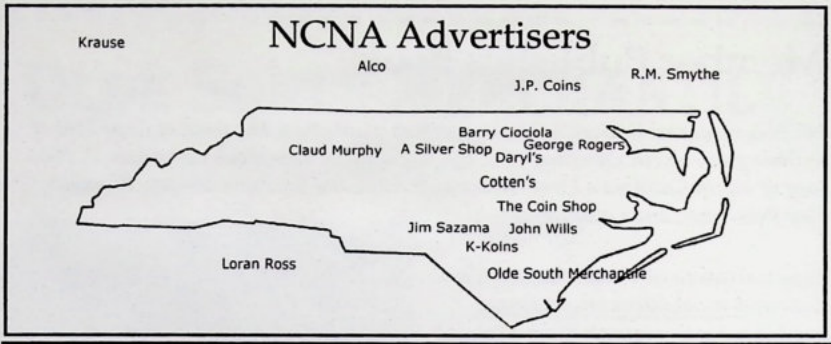

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Barbarous Radiates

Kent Woodson

As long as there have been coins, there have been counterfeiters. Tribes to the north of Greece imitated Greek bronze and silver coins as early as 450 B. C. "Counterfeits" is a strong word to describe some of the coinage imitating official mint products. "Imitations"is perhaps a better word to describe most barbarous coins. Imitation is the highest form of flattery and this coinage not only allowed for economic flexibility (as opposed to a barter economy) but were also a symbol of a cultured existence. Although there is some evidence that these Greek imitations were used in trade with the Greek city states, it is not likely that this was a prevalent practice. Early imitative silver coins are rarely found with hordes of official Greek coins and the bronze coins are generally cast and are quite inferior to "real" Greek coins. These imitation coins served as local currency to the tribes to the north and trade with the Greeks would still have been a bartered exchange.

The height of the imitative coins were in the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. The 3rd and 4th Centuries were a chaotic time in western Europe, and almost forced the issue of unofficial coins. The order that the Roman Empire had provided for the past five centuries was quickly eroding. At the same time the "Barbaric" tribes to the north and west of the Roman Empire were becoming more organized and technologically advanced. The true counterfeit coins of this period were produced within the confines of the empire. These rogues (often imperial mint employees or suppliers to mint facilities) created very nice (if they didn't actually obtain official dies) renditions of imperial coins. The silver coins were extremely debased or washed with silver, and bronze coins were seldom worth the effort to counterfeit. (Later that century the imperial mints started using debased silver and silver washed coins, and they should not be confused with earlier copies.) These coins were minted with the intent to defraud. The imitative coins of the northern tribes were rarely made for this purpose. Certainly there were a few instances where the Celtic or Germanic tribes probably tried to pass off their coins as imperial issues, but in most instances if you were a marauding band of barbarians you could take goods by force and needn't bother with a medium of exchange.

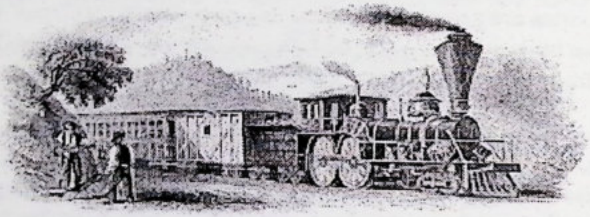
The name "Barbarous Radiates" came about because in the 3rd and 4th centuries the Roman Empire's basic unit (and perhaps most prolific unit) of currency was the Antoninianus or double denarius. These coins depicted the emperor's portrait on the obverse with the spiked crown of the sun god. This crown was known as a radiate crown and this crown was the indicator

(Continued on page 23)

NC Quarter Update

We have received word from the U.S. Mint that the North Carolina quarter designs will be available for the selection committee to evaluate late January 2000. The final selection is to be made by March 28, 2000. We expect that the Mint will release designs early in 2000.

We will post information as we get it on the web at http://www.unc.edu/~rcs/quarters/ and of course publish it in the *Journal*.



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that the coin was worth double other coins the same size (hence the term double denarius). These "barbarous radiates" just like the early Greek imitation served as local currency and rarely were used in trade with the Romans. Initially these coins were very close in scale and artistic style with official imperial issues, but as time progressed they became very distinctive.

Barbarous radiates circulated for an extended period of time, often for hundreds of years, and the tribes developed fairly distinctive styles over the years. For instance Celtic issues have distinctive lettering ("B"s and "S"s in particular) and very fluid method of die engraving (arms and legs that are S-shaped without distinctive elbows or knees). Germanic and some later tribes in Britain had a less fluid style and emperors' portraits have very angular features; additionally they rarely had legends on their coins. Although these radiates circulated for hundreds of years they generally (almost without exception) imitate the portraits of late 3rd century emperors (Postumus 259-268 A.D. Victorinus 265-270 A.D. Tetricus I 270-273 A.D., Tetricus II 270-273 A.D., Claudius II "Gothicus" 268-270 A.D., Tacitus 275-276 A.D., and Probus 276-282 A.D.).

Since they were imitations of 3rd century issues into the 6th century, the later issues were probably a copy of a copy or potentially a copy of a copy with a long ancestry of imitative coins. This occurred because imperial issues generally did not circulate for hundreds of years and this was especially true for the western half of the empire when it was abandoned in the late 5th century. When the Roman Empire disintegrated in the west, the citizenry (well, at these the ones wealthy enough to do so) fled to the east and the protection of whatever legions remained. They took with them their knowledge of mining and refining ore and minting procedures. Both were very important in the manufacture of quality coins. The western and northern tribes were forced to make due with what metals they had on hand at the end of the western Roman era.

To paraphrase an old economic adage, "If the size of the pie is fixed, and the number of participants that vie for the pie increases, each individual slice is reduced." Nowhere is this better illustrated than the far western reaches of the old Roman Empire where indigenous metals are scarce They simply quartered imperial issues or older barbarous radiates and struck over whatever facade still existed on each wedge. These coins were very crudely done, and no attempt was made to dull the angular edges. Some tribes (generally ones in the 6th century) had developed the technology to recycle existing copper and bronze alloys and cast new planchets to be struck. These new planchets were considerably smaller than the original coins. Whereas an original imperial antoninianus might be 19-24 mm in diameter, the new radiates (called minimi for their size) could be as small as 5 mm in diameter.

(Continued on page 28)

Coins and Home Security

(continued from last issue)

BUTTERNUT BITES: #4 This is the first of a series articles about security of coin collections.

Steven Ellsworth

If you decide to use a safe, a small home safe would probably do for the coins you are currently studying. The safe needs to have a bugler entry time of at least 15 minutes (TL-15) and have a minimum Class C fire rating. A safe with a TL-30 is even better. Older safes use older technology. Don't forget to bolt it to the floor from the inside if the safe could be carried or dragged from your home. Larger cabinet safes, weighing 300 lb. or more will provide more security. Your alarm can also be connected to your safe with numerous specialized electronic security features. Be sure to place it on a solid cement floor, in a semi-hidden place.

If you have already made purchased a small cheap safe, your money has not been wasted. Place it in the master bedroom, filled with some cheap costume jewelry and a few inexpensive coins along with a perhaps $100 in cash. Tape a paper with the combination to the outside. Should a burglar gain access, they may be content with the "dumb" owners and not vandalize your home in their frustration of trying to open the hidden, more secure safe.

A word of caution about your decision regarding safes. Will a safe that prevents a common burglar access, invite them to return as an armed robber? Large or valuable collections stored at home could be inviting to an armed robber. When a bandit is holding a gun on you or a family member, even the most secure safe should be opened immediately. There have been only a few home armed robberies for coins. And in those robberies, I only know of a few that resulted in a murder. The overall number of robberies is only a fraction of the number of burglaries that occur each year. Unfortunately, organized crime groups are now routinely targeting many known jewelry and coin dealers. According to a recent Washington Post article, robberies of traveling dealers in Los Angeles have become epidemic.

Firearms

Guns are as high a target for a burglar as coins, jewelry or cash. Many violent crimes are committed using stolen guns as they are quickly sold by the burglar for cash on any street corner in America. Unsecured firearms in a home can very dangerous for family members. If children are in the prem-

ises, secured guns are becoming law in some states. Trigger locks are effective (most manufactures include one with a new purchase of handgun) but may hinder access in an emergency. Hiding a gun only means a game for kids to hunt and find it. Telling children, "do not touch" simply will not work. This all in itself presents a dilemma. How can a firearm be used for home security, if it is secured properly?

A possible solution to this dilemma is a new high tech, quick access safe lock-box for handguns is now available. The lock-box safe uses a number sequence computer chip to activate a spring loaded door opening for instant authorized access. It comes with a external secured base-plate allowing the safe itself to be removed from the inside. This makes the security system portable. Additional base-plates may be purchased for use in the office or for vehicle trunks. It offers one of the best way to secure a handgun, at a nominal price.

And finally, you must ask yourself "do I have the will to use a firearm in a life-threatening situation?" This is most likely the most important question that you will need to address. It is a very serious consideration, and one not to be taken lightly.

Should your personal decision be to own a firearm, first be professionally trained on its safe and proper use. Most communities, police departments, shooting ranges and the National Rifle Association either offer, or can suggest a basic firearm classes. Only after you have become proficient in the use of a firearm should you purchase one. Second, be legal. Register it with the local police and obtain any necessary permit(s) or license(s) for it.

While the federal gun legislation receives much more media attention, state legislatures and city councils make far more laws in regards of firearms. As of 1999, there are over 20,000 active gun laws on the books in America. Unfortunately, there are few consistencies between city, county and state laws, when it comes to firearms.

As of now, 42 states have laws allowing an honest citizen to obtain a concealed weapon permit. Some states even recognize permits from other states. Three states have laws that require a possession permit be obtained prior to the purchase of a handgun. The District of Columbia does not allow any handgun to be carried, owned or even transported through the District. Three states consider it a felony to transport a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Arizona, where freedom and firearms are a tradition, few people are questioned by police about guns, other than to satisfy the officers curiosity as to the make, model and price an individual paid for a gun. In Kennesaw, Georgia, all homeowners are required to own a weapon, as it is a misdemeanor **not** to have a gun. It is up to the individual to know what the

laws are in their city, county and state and to consider them in their decision process. Your professional firearms trainer and the NRA can assist you in determining what the laws are in your community.

Most states prohibit a weapon to be introduced, unless the situation is life threatening. There must be three elements present in order to defend the right to use deadly force. A criminal must exhibit first, **intent.** Second they must have the **opportunity**. And third, they must exhibit the **ability** to do physical harm to you or your family. A scuffle in the street may not be considered life threatening in some states.

If you are in a robbery situation where you to give up your coins to the robber, without a threat of your or family's life, do it. According to a U. S. Department of Justice study in January 1985, if you are at home when a criminal forcibly and illegally gains entry, you have one chance in three of becoming a victim of violence. Should you hear an intruder in your home, phone 911 using a cell phone (which leaves you mobile and impervious to land line interruption), let them know you are armed, and find out if they are responding with plain clothes officers or uniformed police. After reporting the situation, leave the line open so it can be monitored. If you and your family can quickly and quietly escape the house, do it. Under no circumstances, even if armed, should you try to "clear the house". Let the police who are trained to do so handle it. If you find yourself trapped in a room, most likely your bedroom, lock the door, and announce loudly to the intruder that the police are on the way, and that you are armed, and you intend to fire, should they try the door. If you are fortunate, the intruder may leave.

Have an emergency exit plan for you and your family . Make sure that your escape plan is not only for potential intruders, but for a fire as well. Ensure that you have flashlights in the designated "safe areas". An annual practice run would not be a bad idea. Make sure you know where all the family members are, and where each member should go if an intruder has entered.

What type of weapon should you choose? At home, a 12-gauge pump shotgun with #4 buckshot shells gives you an advantage over nearly all intruders. Few people in a life-threatening situation could hit a target with anything less. Shotguns are not magic however; they still need aimed firing techniques in order to be effective. One advantage of the pump is that even the slowest-witted miscreant recognizes the sound of chambering a shell in a pump-shotgun. If your decision is to own a handgun for personal protection, be sure to purchase it from a reputable and licensed dealer. A medium to small size, semi-automatic, clip fed, modern double action 9 millimeter to 45 caliber is preferred. If you are very concerned

about firepower, such as on the highway, a 357 or 44 magnum handgun is what many state troopers carry. All should be loaded with hollow point ammunition for maximum effectiveness and firepower.

Whatever you choose, get a documented professional to train in its use, for safety, liability and effective self-defense. It makes no sense owning any gun if you do not maintain proficiency in its use. As a minimum, three hours of practice, two times a year on a regulation gun range, with an expenditure of at least 50 rounds each session, is required to maintain any degree of competency. To become an expert, two hours every other week is needed. Most professionals will use the range to expend their old ammunition, rotating cartridges every six months. If possible, occasionally practice in dim lighting. After a session at the range, the weapon should be thoroughly cleaned.

I know of a number of Dealers, who are legally licensed to carry a gun, but who have had the same rounds in it since they bought it, many, many years previous. Some have never fired it and probably think there is an on-off button on it. Should they require the weapon's use, they would be very ineffective. Most likely it would misfire or jam. It makes little sense to carry a dirty or inoperable gun, loaded with stale rusted ammunition, with little or no training.

Remember, if the unfortunate situation should occur that requires you to discharge a weapon in self defense, your life as you currently know it, will change forever. The legal and emotional ramifications are enormous. On the other hand, it may be better to be judged by 12 of your peers than carried by 6 of your friends.

This paper is not intended in any way to be a legal or tactical guide. All information is from open non-restricted sources. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed. Address them to: Colonel Steven Ellsworth, c/o BUTTERNUT, Post *Office Box 498, Clifton, Virginia 20124-0498. e-mail: Butternut@gslink.com*

Col. Steven Ellsworth *is a retired Army Colonel with over 32 years of service. Among his many assignments include serving in the Army's elite Special Forces or Green Berets, as a Ranger and as a Pathfinder. He has had assignments as a Physical, Intelligence and Communication Security Inspector. He has received specialized training in anti-terrorist, physical, intelligence and personal protective security. He currently is a full time coin dealer and collector and serves as the American Numismatic Association's District Delegate for Virginia.*

Nonetheless the barbaric celators still tried to make a recognizable obverse and reverse. No matter how hard they tried there was very little "canvas" to ply their artistic trade. Generally speaking these minimi do not have legends and they have sticklike figures rather than more corpulent visages. The lack of artistic style was of very little consequence. The coins of the day were really based on a bullion system and currency valuations were based on the actual weight of the coin. During these uncertain times, many barbarous radiates were invariably melted down into a more useable form such as an arrowhead or a blade.

Barbarous radiates are often overlooked in the numismatic world. Certainly they are not generally aesthetically pleasing, and finding an excellent example is actually quite difficult. Additionally, since they were minted over such a long period of time and typically they are very crude, it difficult to ascertain the emperor they were meaning to imitate or sometimes even the coin's region or origin. This difficulty does intimidate some collectors, but to someone willing to do a bit of research it does afford the opportunity to find overlooked treasures. Barbarous radiates are relatively inexpensive and price is almost entirely dependent upon condition. A decent specimen can be found for less than $20 and a crude example for as little as $1. They will not win any beauty contests, but they are a wonderful lesson in early numismatics and one of the few examples of a historical record from the time following the Roman occupation of Western Europe.

Kent Woodson is a collector of ancient coins active in the Raleigh Coin Club. First printed in the RCC *Newsletter*, and used with permission.

Proposed Bylaws Change

The NCNA board proposes to add the following paragraph to its bylaws. The change will be presented to the membership at the meeting at the 2000 convention. Comments are invited.

NCNA board members and officers are expected to attend all board meetings and be actively involved in NCNA business and work. Those missing two or more meetings within a year without just cause (as determined by a quorum of the board) are subject to replacement. Members anticipating an absence should report such to the secretary or president in advance of the absence.

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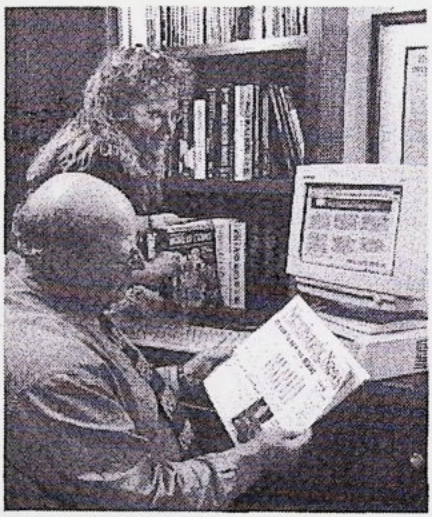

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